

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 05887 120604Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 SY-05 NEA-10
SSO-00 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6808

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 05887

ATHENS FOR ATO
NAIROBI FOR RSS

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION JOHN THOMAS FROM
PICKERING

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AFOP, AFAC

SUBJECT: TERP COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS

REF: (A) AMMAN 5554, (B) 77STATE A3952, (C) STATE 143202,
(D) AMMAN 5123, (E) AMMAN 5194, (F) ATHENS 4888, (G)
STATE 150206

1. I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING US
SOLVE A REMAINING PROBLEM IN THE RECENTLY-INSTALLED TERP
COMMUNICATIONS HERE. DESPITE OUR REPEATED REQUESTS OVER
THE PAST MONTH, WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE A
RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR OUR REQUESTS TO FIND A WAY
TO PERMIT US OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC.

2. PROBLEM CONSISTS OF FOLLOWING: THERE WAS A BASIC FLAW IN
THE PLANNING OF OUR TERP INSTALLATION BECAUSE INSTALLATION
TEAM DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO PERMIT OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF
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CLASSIFIED TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC WITHOUT THE INSTALLATION OF
A SONIC ALARM DEVICE WHICH WAS NOT PROGRAMMED TO ACCOMPANY
THE TERP EQUIPMENT. WITH TERP INSTALLATION WE LOST ONE OF
OUR TWO CIRCUITS, WHICH IN EFFECT (SINCE TERP IS LIKE OUR
PREVIOUS SYSTEM WITH ONLY 75 BAUD FOR INCOMING TRAFFIC)
HAS CUT ONE-HALF THE SPEED WITH WHICH WE RECEIVE INCOMING
TELEGRAMS. WE HAD THOUGHT THIS COULD BE ADEQUATELY COM-

PENSATED FOR BY ALLOWING AUTOMATED TERP SYSTEM TO RECEIVE
TELEGRAMS CONTINUOUSLY OVERNIGHT. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT DID
PERMIT RECEIPT OF UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC OVER-
NIGHT, IT DID NOT PERMIT RECEIPT OF CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC
UNTIL THERE WAS INSTALLED A SONIC ALARM DEVICE. WE WERE
TOLD AT ONE POINT THAT WE WOULD HAVE A TECHNICIAN INSTALL
IT AROUND MID-JULY BUT THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING TO CONFIRM
THIS. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN EARLY JUNE ALONG
WITH THE REST OF THE SYSTEM.

3. AS A RESULT, WE OFTEN FIND DELAYS OF MORE THAN 24 HOURS
IN RECEIPT OF TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC. WITH THE LEBANESE
SITUATION AND OTHER FAST-BREAKING MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS,
THIS HAS SOMETIMES IMPEDED RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS AND
ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR TIMELINESS IN GETTING TO THE
JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ON THESE ISSUES. WE VERY MUCH NEED TO
HAVE OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED TELEGRAMS IN ORDER TO
BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE DIPLOMATIC REQUIREMENTS DURING
THIS PERIOD WHICH WE ANTICIPATE ARE GOING TO BECOME EVEN
MORE SIGNIFICANT IN THE COMING WEEKS.

4. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THREE LOCKED
VAULT DOORS IN THE EMBASSY STRIKES US AS SUFFICIENT TO PRO-
TECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC DURING THE
OVERNIGHT PERIOD. HOWEVER, IF DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THESE
ARE NOT SUFFICIENT, WE REQUEST AT LEAST THE IMMEDIATE
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ARRIVAL HERE OF A TECHNICIAN TO INSTALL THE SONIC ALARM. I
DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NOT INCLUDED ON THE INITIAL
INSTALLATION TEAM AND REQUEST YOUR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION
OF HELPING US CLEAR UP THIS PROBLEM. I REGRET RAISING THIS
WITH YOU BUT OUR EFFORTS AT LOWER LEVELS HAVE NOT BEEN
SUCCESSFUL. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. PICKERING

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